

REMARKS

In light of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 11-13 and 15 and amended claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 14 and 16 are in this application. Claims 17-20 are newly added.

At paragraph 3 of the outstanding Final Office Action of February 27, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ozawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,533,113). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended independent claim 1, recites in part, “An information communication system comprising...communicating means for performing communication with outside via a corresponding **plurality of predetermined communicating routes employing corresponding different transmission methods...**” (Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that the reference relied upon by the Examiner does not teach the above-recited feature of amended independent claim 1.

Ozawa teaches a system in which a person carrying a radio card is automatically detected so that a call to this person can be transferred to a telephone set located in the vicinity of

that person (column 1, lines 6-12). However, Ozawa does not teach communicating means for performing communication with outside via a corresponding plurality of predetermined communicating routes employing corresponding different transmission methods, as does amended independent claim 1.

In Ozawa there may be multiple routes of sending information. However, there is only one method (i.e., telephone) of sending such information in that positioning system. Once a person is detected in a certain area of a plant via the radio card, the system automatically makes a call on behalf of a potential caller via only one access route and only one method (i.e., a telephone in the nearest detected vicinity of the person). In contrast, amended independent claim 1 teaches multiple routes and multiple methods of sending information (i.e., public telephone, cell phone, Internet, etc.). Once the managing system of the present invention receives the individual information from a terminal it selects one or more transmission methods and therefore may also select multiple routes in order to send information. Therefore amended independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from Ozawa.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to amended independent claim 1, amended independent claims 8, 14 and 16 are also believed to be distinguishable from Ozawa.

Furthermore, applicants submit that claims 2-7, 9-13 and 15 depend from one of amended independent claims 1, 8 and 14, and are therefore distinguishable for this reason alone.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

Applicants have further added new claims 17-20. Applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection relied upon by the Examiner does not apply to claims 17-20, and submit that the rejection of these claims over 35 U.S.C. 102(b) would be improper.

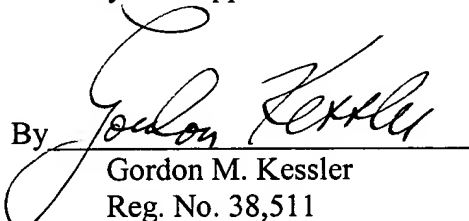
The Examiner has made of record, but not applied, several U.S. patents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's explicit finding that these references, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is the bases for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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